

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A digital camera comprising:
 - a taking lens;
 - an image-sensing device for shooting an image by receiving light from the taking lens;
 - an optical element, disposed retractably in an optical path from the taking lens to the image-sensing device, for reflecting part of the light from the taking lens;
 - a photometric device for measuring an amount of light reflected from the optical element;
 - a controller that, during shooting, makes an illumination device start emitting illumination light and then makes the illumination device stop emitting the illumination light when the amount of light measured by the photometric device has reached a predetermined value;
 - a selector that selects either a first mode in which shooting is performed without emission of the illumination light by the illumination device and a second mode in which shooting is performed with emission of the illumination light by the illumination device;
 - and
 - a driver that retracts the optical element out of the optical path during shooting when the first mode is selected and that keeps the optical element in the optical path during shooting when the second mode is selected.
2. (Original) A digital camera as claimed in claim 1,
 - wherein the illumination device is built in or externally connected to the digital camera.

3. (Original) A digital camera as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the optical element is a half mirror.
4. (Currently Amended) A digital camera as claimed in claim 1, further
comprising:
a gain controller that adjusts a gain of an output of the image-sensing device in
such a way that the gain differs between [[in]] the first and second modes.
5. (Original) A digital camera as claimed in claim 4,
wherein the gain controller sets the gain in the second mode to be approximately
equal to the gain in the first mode multiplied by a reciprocal of a transmittance of the
optical element.
6. (Original) A digital camera as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a viewfinder that offers a visible image by receiving the light reflected from the
optical element.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a digital camera including
an optical element that is disposed retractably in an optical path from a taking lens to an
image-sensing device and that reflects part of the light from the taking lens, comprising:
a step of selecting either a first mode in which shooting is performed without
emission of illumination light by an illumination device and a second mode in which
shooting is performed with emission of the illumination light by the illumination device;
a step of, when the first mode is selected, retracting the optical element out of the
optical path during shooting; and
a step of, when the second mode is selected, keeping the optical element in the
optical path during shooting, measuring an amount of light reflected from the optical
element, and stopping emission of the illumination light as soon as the measured amount
of light reaches a predetermined value.

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Reply to Notice of Allowance of April 7, 2005

8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a digital camera as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

a step of setting a gain of an output of the image-sensing device in such a way that the gain differs between [[in]] the first and second modes.